

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously presented) A nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery, comprising:

a conductive porous member; and

an active material with which the conductive porous member is filled, the active material including (a) a main active material layer substantially made of nickel hydroxide, the main active material layer containing cobalt in a state of a solid solution, and (b) a compound layer that contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, strontium, scandium, yttrium, and lanthanoide series, the compound layer being formed on a surface of the main active material layer,

wherein a metal molar ratio of cobalt contained in the main active material layer to nickel contained in the main active material layer is in a range of 0.5% to 3.0% inclusive, and a metal molar ratio of the at least one element contained in the compound layer to nickel contained in the active material is in a range of 0.3% to 5.0% inclusive,

wherein the metal molar ratio of the at least one element selected from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, strontium, scandium, yttrium, and lanthanoide series is at least 20% in the compound layer formed on the surface of the main active material layer.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): A nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery, comprising:

- (a) a conductive porous member; and
- (b) an active material with which the conductive porous member is filled, the active material comprising
  - (i) a main active material layer of nickel hydroxide including cobalt in the state of solid solution, formed on the conductive porous member, and
  - (ii) a compound layer formed on the surface of the main active material layer, containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, strontium, scandium, yttrium, and lanthanoide series,

wherein the metal molar ratio of the at least one element selected from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, strontium, scandium, yttrium, and lanthanoide series is at least 20% in the compound layer formed on the surface of the main active material layer.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery, comprising:

- (a) a conductive porous member; and
- (b) an active material with which the conductive porous member is filled, the active material comprising
  - (i) a main active material layer of nickel hydroxide including cobalt in the state of solid solution, formed on the conductive porous member, and
  - (ii) a compound layer formed on the surface of the main active material layer, containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, strontium, scandium, yttrium, and lanthanoide series,

wherein the metal molar ratio of the at least one element selected from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, strontium, scandium, yttrium, and lanthanoide series is at least 20% in the compound layer formed on the surface of the main active material layer, and

wherein a metal molar ratio of cobalt contained in the main active material layer to nickel contained in the main active material layer is in a range of 0.5% to 3.0% inclusive.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery, comprising:

(a) a conductive porous member; and

(b) an active material with which the conductive porous member is filled, the active material comprising

(i) a main active material layer of nickel hydroxide including cobalt in the state of solid solution, formed on the conductive porous member, and

(ii) a compound layer formed on the surface of the main active material layer, containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, strontium, scandium, yttrium, and lanthanoide series,

wherein the metal molar ratio of the at least one element selected from the group consisting of calcium, aluminum, strontium, scandium, yttrium, and lanthanoide series is at least 20% in the compound layer formed on the surface of the main active material layer, and

wherein a metal molar ratio of the at least one element contained in the compound layer to nickel contained in the active material is in a range of 0.3% to 5.0% inclusive.